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the X-MEN

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"MEKANO LIVES!"

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

"MEKANO LIVES!"

TO THE TWO WOULD-BE BURGLARS, IT LOOKED LIKE JUST ANOTHER DARKENED HOUSE WAITING TO BE LOOTED! YET, NO PAIR OF PETTY THUGS WAS EVER MORE DRASTICALLY MISTAKEN...AS YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY NOTICED!

AT THE REGRETTABLE RISK OF BELABORING THE OBVIOUS, GENTLEMEN...

SPROING!

...MAY I POINT OUT THAT YOU ARE DEFINITELY TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!

THWOK!

IT'S ONE OF THEM MUTANTS... THE GUY THEY CALL THE BEAST! WE MUST'A STUMBLED INTO THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS!

I'D BETTER MAKE LIKE A BANANA... AND SPLIT!

WHAT IN BLAZ--?

OOOFF!

STAN LEE PUNCTILIOUSLY PRESENTS A ROY THOMAS-ROSS ANDRU PANORAMA OF PANDEMONIUM-PACKED PANELS!

INKED BY: GEORGE BELL | LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

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YOU'RE NOT CONTEMPLATING *LEAVING* OUR LITTLE DISCUSSION GROUP, ARE YOU, FRIEND?

THOOM!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I AIM TO DO JUST *THAT!*..

=UNNHHH!=

KLUNK!

AND, NO APE-FACED LUG LIKE *YOU* IS GONNA *STOP* ME!

*MEANWHILE, IN A WINDOWLESS *INNER CHAMBER* OF THE COUNTRYSIDE MANSION, LET'S SEE WHAT THE *REST* OF OUR MARVELOUS MUTANTS ARE DOING, SHALL WE?

ALL THIS STANDING AROUND IS *GETTIN'* TO ME! WHEN ARE WE GONNA GO AFTER THE *PROF?**

BOBBY DRAKE, YOU *KNOW* THAT FIRST WE HAVE TO MAP OUT A *BATTLE PLAN!*

DON'T BE TOO *HARD* ON HIM, JEAN! WE'RE *ALL* ANXIOUS TO GET INTO ACTION!

SAY.. WHERE'S THE *BEAST?* HE WAS RIGHT HERE A *MINUTE* AGO!

*PROFESSOR X IS A COMATOSE CAPTIVE OF THE EVIL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS *FACTOR THREE!*.. SYNOPSIZING STAN.

HE TOLD ME HE HEARD A *NOISE* UPSTAIRS! IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE *WIND*, BUT HE WENT TO *INVESTIGATE!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HANK! HE CAN TAKE CARE OF *HIMSELF!*

AND SO IT WOULD APPEAR HE CAN...OR *CAN* HE?

IF I CAN JUST GET *CLOSE* BEHIND HIM...

KBOP!

MUCH AS I DISLIKE RESORTING TO *VIOLENCE*, I FEAR YOU LEAVE ME NO *CHOICE!*

YOU *TALK* A GOOD FIGHT, YOU OVER-RATED ORANG-UTAN..

KRAK!

BUT, LET'S SEE WHAT THIS SOLID WOOD *CHAIR* DOES FOR YA!

BUT, BEFORE *WE* CAN LEARN THE EFFECT OF SPLINTERING OAK ON HENRY McCOY'S CRANIUM, OUR SCENE SWITCHES ONCE MORE TO...

SO, THE SECRET STRONGHOLD OF FACTOR THREE IS IN THE *ALPS*, HUH?

YES! AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT *CEREBRO* REGISTERS!

WELL, OUR MUTANT-DETECTING MACHINE HASN'T BEEN WRONG *YET!*

Y'KNOW, GROUP, I'M GETTING *WORRIED* ABOUT BEASTIE! I'M SURE I HEARD A *CRASHING* SOUND FROM UP THERE!

SO DID *I*, BOBBY! BUT, HANK'LL *CONTACT* US IF HE NEEDS US!

NOW, TO GET BACK TO *BUSINESS*!..

THE WAY I SEE IT, WE'VE GOT TO HOTFOOT IT TO *EUROPE*... AS SOON AS *POSSIBLE!*

IF WE'RE NOT ALREADY.. *TOO LATE!*

AS, JUST A FEW THICK-PANELED WALLS *AWAY*...

THAT CHAIR BARELY *FAZED* HIM! HE AIN'T *HUMAN!*

I NEVER CLAIMED TO BE A TYPICAL *HOMO SAPIENS*, MY BURGLING BUDDY!

APPARENTLY YOU'RE A BIT REMISS IN YOUR *MUTANT LORE!*

SKREEEETCHH

THIS SHOULD REMIND YOU THAT I HAVE TALENTS BESIDES MY MATCHLESS *AGILITY!*

AND NOW, FOR THE *FINAL* LESSON IN YOUR REFRESHER COURSE, I---

:OOOF!:

DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU THE VALUE OF *FAIR PLAY?*

NICE GUYS FINISH *LAST*, CREEP.. OR HADN'T YA *HEARD?*

AS A MATTER OF UNEQUIVOCAL FACT, I *HAD*... BUT, ONE MUSTN'T BELIEVE EVERY ADAGE ONE *HEARS*...

...AS I SUSPECT YOU'RE BEGINNING TO *CONCUR!*

FLIP!

YOWPP!

SMAK!

LOOK OUWWWW--!

MOMENTS LATER...

HEY, CREW! LOOK WHAT THE *BEAST* DRAGGED IN!

THESE TWO UNSEEMLY SPECIMENS HAD DESIGNS ON OUR *VALUABLES!* ALAS, I WAS FORCED TO USE DRASTIC MEASURES TO *DISSUADE* THEM!

SO WE *SEE!* WELL, THE *POLICE* WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM!

BUT, SCOTT.. IF THEY SAW HANK IN *COSTUME..!*

DON'T WORRY, WARREN! I'M NOT FORGETTING THE LITTLE MATTER OF OUR *SECRET IDENTITIES!*

HANK, HOOK THESE TWO CLOWNS UP TO *CEREBRO!*

AND, AS THE TWO CROOKS REGAIN *CONSCIOUSNESS...*

WHAT *IS* THIS, ANYHOW? SOME KINDA FANCY *HAIR-DRESSIN' GIZMO?*

WE'LL DO THE TALKING, CHUM! YOU JUST SUPPLY THE *LISTENING!*

YOU'LL FORGET YOU WERE EVER *HERE*--OR WHAT YOU *LEARNED*--AND WILL DO EXACTLY WHAT I *TELL YOU...*

EXACTLY...WHAT YOU..TELL US...

THUS, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, A PAIR OF SOMEWHAT GLASSY-EYED FIGURES EXIT FROM *PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...*

THEIR POST-HYPNOTIC DESTINATION: THE NEAREST *POLICE STATION!*

HELLO, CURTIS...THIS IS *WARREN!* I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO MY *FATHER*, PLEASE WHAT? OH, YES...I *FORGOT!* THANK YOU, CURTIS! GOOD-BYE!

WELL, SO MUCH FOR *THAT!* IN THE EXCITEMENT, I FORGOT THAT MY PARENTS JUST LEFT ON A *CARIBBEAN CRUISE!*

THEN, WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO RAISE THE FARE *OURSELVES!*

SO IT WOULD SEEM! AND, I HAVE A FEW *IDEAS* ON THAT SUBJECT!

WHILE, IN THE X-MEN'S SECRET *JET HANGAR...*

NO GO, GROUP! THERE'S NOT ENOUGH GAS LEFT IN THIS BIRD TO GET US TO *BROOKLYN*, LET ALONE *EUROPE!*

JUST AS I *FEARED!*

YET, SOMEHOW.. SOME WAY..WE'VE *GOT* TO REACH THERE..AND *FAST!*

IT'S *RISKY*..BUT, MAYBE I COULD CON MY *PARENTS* INTO SHELLING OUT WITH *PLANE FARE!*

WE'VE GOT TO *TAKE* THAT CHANCE! IT MAY BE OUR ONLY *HOPE!*

THUS IT IS, THAT, AT SUNRISE, A STARTLED *POLICE SERGEANT* RECEIVES TWO RATHER UNIQUE *CALLERS*..

...AND THEN, IN 1965, WE KNOCKED OVER A COUPLE'A *WAREHOUSES* OVER IN *JERSEY*...

YEAH! BUT, DON'T FORGET THAT *SAFE-CRACKIN'* JOB IN *SCARSDALE!*

HEY, SAM...GET A *TAPE RECORDER!* THESE TWO JOKERS ARE GIVIN' ME *WRITER'S CRAMP!*

...WHILE A SLEEK BLACK *LIMOUSINE* SPEEDS TOWARDS MANHATTAN...AND AN UNEXPECTED RENDEZVOUS WITH *DANGER*...

I STILL DON'T *GET* IT! WHY DON'T WE JUST BORROW MONEY ON OUR *ROLLS-ROYCE?*

WE *CAN'T*, BOBBY! IT, LIKE EVERY-THING AT THE SCHOOL, IS IN THE *PROFESSOR'S NAME!*

ALL WE'D DO BY GOING TO A *BANK* WOULD BE TO ATTRACT *SUSPICION* TO OURSELVES!

AND, THE *LAST* THING WE NEED NOW IS ANOTHER *DELAY!*

SOON, WE FIND JEAN AND WARREN AT A HIGHLY UNLIKELY SPOT...A *WELFARE CENTER* ON NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

..SO YOU SEE, MISS KING, WE *MUST* HAVE SOME MONEY...TO HELP OUT OUR *TEACHER!*

HE'S GRAVELY *ILL*...AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HIM WITHOUT SOME *CASH!*

THAT'S *TRUE*... THOUGH NOT IN THE WAY SHE MIGHT *THINK!*

WE'D CERTAINLY *LIKE* TO HELP YOU...

BUT FRANKLY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS WE'D HAVE TO *CLEAR UP* FIRST...SUCH AS THE *RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT!*

ALSO, WE'D HAVE TO CONTACT YOUR *PARENTS!* WHERE CAN WE REACH *THEM?*

YOU *CAN'T!* THEY'RE ON A *SEA CRUISE*, AND ..I MEAN...

SEA CRUISE? OH DEAR, I'M AFRAID THAT *DOES* CREATE A PROBLEM! THIS IS ALL HIGHLY *IRREGULAR!*

PERHAPS YOU'D BEST APPLY FOR AID AGAIN WHEN THEY *RETURN*...OR, BETTER YET, CABLE *THEM* FOR THE MONEY YOU NEED!

YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* WE CAN'T *DO* THAT! I...

NEVER MIND! COME ON, JEAN ...WE'D BETTER *GO!*

SECONDS LATER, AS THE DEPRESSED TEENAGERS *LEAVE*...

MISS KING, ARE *THOSE* THE YOUNGSTERS WHO WANTED A *WELFARE LOAN?*

THEY CERTAINLY *ARE!* AND LOOK... THEY'RE DRIVING OFF IN A *ROLLS-ROYCE!*

THAT *SETTLES* IT! IT WAS SOME SORT OF *COLLEGE INITIATION* STUNT! I KNEW IT ALL ALONG!

HOW COULD ANYONE WITH A CAR LIKE *THAT* NEED A *HAND-OUT?*

WELL, WE *STRUCK OUT*... BUT GOOD!

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, WARREN! THERE ARE *OTHER* WAYS OF GETTING MONEY...

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN THE MIDTOWN AREA---

WARREN, PULL OVER TO THE *CURB!* WE MAY HAVE JUST FOUND THE *ANSWER* TO OUR PROBLEMS!

AFTER ALL, WHO'D MAKE BETTER *CONSTRUCTION WORKERS* THAN THE SUPER-POWERED *X-MEN?*

NOW YOU'RE *COOKIN'*, LEADER-MAN! BUT, FIVE'S A *CROWD!*

BEASTIE AND I'LL HEAD FOR *GREENWICH VILLAGE*.. TO CARRY OUT MY *OWN* LITTLE ICY *BRAINSTORM!*

GREAT! THAT GIVES US *TWO* SHOTS AT PICKING UP THE MONEY FOR PLANE TICKETS!

DON'T GET *LOST*, YOU TWO! WE'LL MEET YOU IN *WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK* AT NOON!

CHECK! AND, DON'T WORRY.. I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU'LL BE ABLE TO *SPOT* US!

JUST TELL ME *ONE THING*, HANK---HOW COME *WE* ALWAYS END UP ON THE *SUBWAY?*

SUCH ARE THE VICISSITUDES OF *LIFE*, LAD!

HMMM-- HANK AND BOBBY WERE PRETTY *SECRETIVE* ABOUT THEIR PLAN! STILL, I GUESS THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE *DOING!*

BUT, DON'T TAKE AS LONG TO GET READY AS *USUAL*, OKAY, GAL?

OKAY, JEAN! YOU CAN CHANGE *FIRST*, WHILE WARREN AND I STAND *LOOKOUT!*

KEEP OUT

I CHOOSE TO *IGNORE* THAT REMARK, WARREN WORTHING-TON!

I'LL BE READY IN THE PROVERBIAL *TWO SHAKES!*

AND, THE LOVELY JEAN GREY IS AS GOOD AS HER *WORD*---

NOW, IT'S *MY* TURN TO BE ON GUARD--- WHILE THE *BOYS* GET INTO COSTUME!

UH OH! LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE WORKMEN HAS *SPOTTED* ME!

WH..IT'S *MARVEL GIRL*-- ONE OF THOSE MUTANT *X-MEN!*

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOIN' AROUND HERE, LADY?

WHY, I'M---LOOKING FOR A *JOB!* GOT AN OPENING FOR A GIRL WITH *TELEKINETIC POWERS?*

HUH? YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDIN'!* AND, WHERE'RE THE *REST* OF YOUR BUDDIES?

RIGHT *BEHIND* YOU, MISTER--- AT LEAST IN *PART!*

AND, SHE *MEANT* IT ABOUT THOSE JOBS! WE NEED *THREE* OF 'EM!

GOOD FOR *JEANIE!* SHE KEPT HIM BUSY TILL WE FINISHED CHANGING!

SOON, AS THE COLORFUL TRIO *REPEAT* THEIR OFFER TO AN EQUALLY ASTONISHED FOREMAN...

HEAVEN KNOWS WE COULD *USE* HELP! WE'RE BEHIND *SCHEDULE!*

BUT, I NEVER HEARD OF ANY *MUTANTS* LOOKIN' FOR A NINE-TO-FIVE *JOB!* WHAT GIVES?

LET'S JUST SAY EVEN MUTANTS HAVE TO *EAT*... AND LET IT GO AT THAT!

NOW, ARE WE *HIRED*... OR DO WE LOOK *ELSEWHERE?*

WELL... A LOTTA PEOPLE CLAIM ALL YOU MUTIES ARE A *MENACE*... BUT I NEVER QUITE *SWALLOWED* THAT!

SO, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN *DO*... AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT HIRIN'!

FAIR ENOUGH! *LADIES FIRST,* MARVEL GIRL!

WHY, THANK YOU, KIND SIR! NOW, IF I COULD USE ONE OF THE *LIFTS*...

HELP *YOURSELF,* LADY...

AND SO, ONE MINUTE LATER...

HOW'S *THIS* FOR A TRIAL RUN?

WOW! JEAN'S SURE COME A LONG WAY FROM WHEN SHE HAD TO STRAIN TO LIFT HER OWN *WEIGHT!*

IT'S SOME KIND'A *TRICK!* THOSE BEAMS ARE FLOATIN' UPWARD ALL BY *THEMSELVES!*

HARDLY BY *THEMSELVES,* FRIEND FOREMEN! I'M SUSPENDING THEM IN SPACE *TELEKINETICALLY!*

MAYBE I COULDN'T DO THIS ALL DAY... STILL, I COULD EASILY TRANSPORT *SMALLER* SUPPLIES!

ACTUALLY, I CAN HARDLY HOLD THOSE *GIRDERS* IN PLACE! BUT, IF WE COULD JUST GET THE *JOB*...

OKAY, SISTER... I'M *SOLD!*

NOW, WHAT ABOUT YOUR *BOY FRIENDS* HERE?

SHALL WE, ANGEL?

LET'S, CYCLOPS!

ALL RIGHT... I'VE GOT A BUCKET OF *RIVETS* HERE! LET'S GO *ALOFT!*

NO SOONER SAID THAN *DONE,* DEPUTY LEADER!

WE'LL GIVE A PERFORMANCE THAT'LL MAKE HIS *EYES* POP!

AND, POP THEY DO, AS...

GO, CYKE, GO!!

MY OPTIC BEAMS WON'T DO A PERMANENT RIVETING JOB... BUT, IT'LL HOLD THOSE GIRDERS TILL THEY CAN BE SOLDERED!

MEANWHILE, IT'LL TAKE THEIR WEIGHT OFF YOU, JEANIE!

AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON, MAY I HASTEN TO ADD!

IN THE FUTURE, I'LL STICK TO TELEPORTING EASIER THINGS... LIKE A KEG OF NAILS!

THEN, THE DEMONSTRATION ENDED..

OKAY, MR. FOREMAN... WE MAY HAVE GONE A BIT SHOW BIZ, BUT I THINK YOU SEE OUR POTENTIAL!

AND HOW! SHOW ME YOUR UNION CARDS, AND I'LL PUT YOU RIGHT TO WORK!

UNION CARDS? SINCE WHEN DO MUTANTS BELONG TO A UNION?

UH OH! I WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT! EVEN YOU THREE AIN'T WORTH GETTIN' PICKETED OVER!

BUT, I'LL SEE IF I CAN PUSH SOMETHIN' THROUGH... SO YOU CAN START IN A FEW DAYS!

NO GOOD! THAT'LL BE TOO LATE!

SORRY, THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!

WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE IT! THANKS ANYWAY!

SOON, AFTER RECEIVING THE PRIVACY TO CHANGE BACK TO THEIR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES...

TOO BAD! WITH TIME-AND-A-HALF, WE MIGHT'VE PUT A REAL DENT IN THE MONEY WE NEED!

SCOTT... WAIT! LOOK!

OUR CAR... IT'S GONE!

HUH? YOU MEAN THAT WAS YOUR ROLLS THE CITY TRUCKS TOWED AWAY?

TOWED AWAY? BUT, WHY SHOULD THEY... OH NO!!

WE DIDN'T NOTICE THAT WE WERE PARKED NEXT TO A FIRE HYDRANT! THAT SIGN BLOCKED IT FROM VIEW!

YEAH... YOU GOT A RAW DEAL! IT'LL COST YOU $40 TO BAIL IT OUT!

THEN IT STAYS UN-BAILED! WE CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A CAB DOWN TO THE VILLAGE!

NEW YORK IS A FUN CITY!

THE VILLAGE?

I GO TO *COLLEGE* NEAR HERE... BUT I'M HEADING FOR THE VILLAGE *NOW!* I'LL GIVE THE THREE OF YOU A *LIFT!*

BY THE WAY, THE NAME'S REGAL... *TOM REGAL!*

THANKS, TOM! WE *APPRECIATE* IT!

FORGET IT! I KNOW WHAT IT CAN BE LIKE TO HAVE YOUR FOLKS OWN A BIG, FANCY *CAR*... WHILE *YOU* HAVETA LIVE LIKE YOU'RE ON *RELIEF!*

UH, THAT'S NOT *QUITE* THE WAY IT IS WITH US, FELLA...

NO? WELL, ANYWAY, MY *VOLKS* IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

AND SO...

HEY, BUDDY.. WHAT'S IN THIS *BOX* ON THE FLOOR? IT'S *HEAVY!*

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF IT!

I, ER, DON'T MEAN TO LOSE MY *TEMPER*... BUT IT CONTAINS A VALUABLE *SCIENCE PROJECT* I'M WORKING ON!

WHEN IT'S FINISHED, I'LL *SHOW* THEM WHAT I CAN DO! I'LL SHOW *EVERYBODY!*

WHEW! THIS GUY'S GOT A *MAD ON* AT THE *WORLD!*

STILL, THIS IS NO TIME TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE *MOUTH!*

AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME MOMENT, IN WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK...

HEY, WADDAYA KNOW, BEASTIE! IN BUSINESS JUST *THREE MINUTES,* AND ALREADY WE'RE A *SOLID HIT!*

BETWEEN YOUR *QUICK-FREEZING* FACULTIES AND MY OWN *AERIAL* AGILITY.. HOW COULD WE *MISS?*

LET'S HOPE THEY'RE EQUALLY ENRAPTURED WHEN *COLLECTION TIME* ROLLS AROUND!

MAN, BEFORE *THOSE* TWO HIT THE SCENE, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT *COOL* MEANT!

YOU BETTER *BELIEVE* IT, AFRED!

THUS IT IS THAT, A FEW MINUTES LATER---

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND'A *COMMOTION* IN THE PARK! HOPE YOU FIND YOUR *PALS* OKAY!

I'VE GOT A STRONG HUNCH WE *WILL*, TOM! THANKS AGAIN!

HIS OWN *CAR*... BRAND NEW *CLOTHES*..AND THAT GUY STILL TALKS AS IF HE'S AN *UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILD!*

AW, HE'S OKAY, JEANIE!

BUT, IF WARREN COULD BEHOLD YOUNG TOM REGAL A MINUTE LATER, ON THE *OPPOSITE* SIDE OF THE PARK, HE MIGHT *REVISE* HIS OPINION---

THERE'S QUITE A *CROWD* GATHERED IN THERE! GOOD... THAT'S JUST WHAT I *WANT!*

I'VE GOT TO MOVE *FAST*...BEFORE ANY-BODY AT THE COLLEGE NOTICES THAT I *STOLE* WHAT'S IN THIS PACKAGE!

AW, WHAT'S THE *DIFFERENCE?* THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO STOP ME *NOW!*

WHILE, JUST BEYOND THE PARK'S FAMED *ARCH*---

WHAT'S *WITH* THOSE TWO, ANYWAY?

WHO *CARES?* IT'S A *HAPPENING*.. AND WE'RE *THERE!*

HOLY HANNAH! IT'S HANK AND BOBBY...PUTTING ON AN *EXHIBITION!* THEY MUST BE PLANNING TO ASK FOR *DONATIONS* WHEN THEY'RE FINISHED!

I VOTE WE GET INTO COSTUME AND *JOIN* THEM! IF WE CAN COLLECT *MONEY* LIKE THEY COLLECTED A *CROWD*, WE'RE HALFWAY TO *EUROPE!*

BUT... WHAT ARE THOSE TWO *POLICE-MEN* DOING OVER THERE NEAR THE FOUNTAIN?

I DON'T *LIKE* IT, BILL! THOSE TWO MUTANTS MAY JUST BE UP TO SOMETHING *FISHY!*

MAYBE SO---BUT, I DON'T KNOW OF ANY LAW AGAINST FREEZING THE WATER IN THE *FOUNTAIN!* I---

LOOK UP *THERE!* IS THAT *ANOTHER* X-MAN..?

UH OH! FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE TOP OF THE *ARCH*, CHARLIE!

AND, AS THE EYES OF THE FICKLE CROWD TURN UP-WARD, A MEGAPHONE-MAGNIFIED *VOICE* RINGS OUT---

LISTEN, ALL OF YOU---LISTEN AND HEED THE WORDS OF THE MAGNIFICENT *MEKANO!*

YOU ARE PRIVILEGED TO BE THE *FIRST* TO SEE ME IN ACTION--- AS I DEMOLISH THE NEW *MEMORIAL LIBRARY* WHICH ADJOINS THIS PARK!

BUT FIRST, I WANT TO *THANK* TWO OF MY MOST VALUED FRIENDS-- *ICEMAN* AND THE *BEAST!*

FOR, IT WAS THEY WHO AGREED TO ATTRACT SUCH A *CROWD* HERE...TO WITNESS THE DRAMATIC DEBUT OF... *MEKANO!*

OH NO! WHOEVER THAT HOODED HAMBONE IS, HE'S NAMING HANK AND BOBBY AS *ACCOMPLICES!* THAT'S ALL WE *NEEDED!*

DON'T WORRY, SCOTT! THEY'LL *CLEAR* THEMSELVES, SOMEHOW! WAIT-- *LISTEN!*

AND NOW, *STAND CLEAR!* I MEAN NO ONE ANY *HARM*...BUT, I'LL *SMASH* ANYONE WHO TRIES TO BAR MY PATH!

THEN, AS THE YOUTH GRABS A HIGH-TENSILE *CABLE*...

HAH! WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK THAT THOSE TWO SUPER-FREAKS *STUMBLED BY* JUST NOW!

WITH *THEM* AROUND, THE FUZZ WILL HAVE LESS TIME TO BOTHER *ME!*

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF THE TWO TITANIC *TEENAGERS* THEMSELVES...?

IT APPEARS WE'RE BEING IMPLICATED IN A *FELONY*, LAD!

FLIP!

AND JUST WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO MAKE OUR *PITCH*, TOO!

C'MON, BEASTIE! LET'S TEACH THAT CREEP TO STOP MUSCLIN' IN ON OUR *ACT!*

BUT, AS THE YOUNGEST X-MAN NEARS THE *GROUND*...

SLIP THE *CUFFS* ON HIM, CHARLIE-- BEFORE HE *GETS AWAY!*

HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG *IDEA?* YOU'RE GRABBIN' THE *WRONG GUY!*

NOW WHERE HAVE WE HEARD *THAT* LINE BEFORE?

THERE! THIS'LL KEEP HIM HERE WHILE WE STOP HIS TWO BUDDIES FROM GOING ON A *RAMPAGE!*

RIGHT! FIRST, I'D BETTER INFORM HIM OF HIS *CONSTI-TUTIONAL RIGHTS..!*

BUT, I'M ON *YOUR* SIDE, I TELL YA!

LET ME GO---AND I'LL BRING THAT *MEKANO* KOOK TO YOU ON A *SILVER PLATTER!*

NO, THANKS, PAL! WE'D RATHER DO IT *OUR-SELVES!*

THEN, AS THE TWO POLICEMEN RUSH OFF, LEAVING A SOMEWHAT IRRITATED *ICEMAN* BEHIND..

NUTS! SOME SUPER-HERO I AM! I USED UP SO MUCH ICE-POWER SHOWING OFF THAT NOW I CAN'T EVEN CRACK THESE *HANDCUFFS!*

I'LL HAVE TO HOPE THAT *HANK* CATCHES MEKANO--BEFORE WE *BOTH* END UP IN *JAIL!*

AND, THAT'S JUST WHAT HENRY P. McCOY *INTENDS* TO DO---

HMMM---MY POTENTIAL ANTAGONIST SEEMS TO BE WEARING SOME SORT OF METALLIC *EXO-SKELETON*--- STRAPPED TO THE CONTOURS OF HIS *BODY!*

MY EDUCATED GUESS WOULD BE THAT IT'S DESIGNED TO GIVE HIM GREATER *STRENGTH*--- AND INCREASED *AGILITY!*

BUT, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ASCERTAIN THE *FACTS!*

ALL RIGHT, YOU MASKED MISANTHROPE! YOUR LIBRARY-SMASHING FORAY CAN *WAIT*...TILL YOU'VE DEALT WITH THE *BEAST!*

OUT OF MY *WAY*, YOU FOOL!

FOOL? NOW, IS THAT ANY WAY TO ADDRESS SOMEONE YOU JUST TOUTED AS YOUR *BOSOM BUDDY?*

OR, ARE YOU *ADMITTING* THAT YOU ONLY SAID THAT TO INCRIMINATE THE *X-MEN* IN THE EYES OF THE POLICE?

YOU *TALK* TOO MUCH, BEAST! I'M ADMITTING *NOTHING!*

WELL, THEN, SON, I'LL JUST HAVE TO--

THUNK!

NO, YOU BARE-FOOT BOHUNK! *I'M* THE ONE WHO'LL TAKE CARE OF THE *DOING*---

≡UMMFF!≡ HE'S EVEN FASTER--- THAN I *THOUGHT!*

---LIKE *THIS!!*

POW!

≡UNNHHH!≡

I--WAS *RIGHT!* THOSE STEEL *BRACES* HE'S WEARING---TURN HIS FISTS INTO VIRTUAL *BATTERING RAMS!*

BUT, WHAT A GRAPHIC WAY OF *ILLUSTRATING* THE POINT---RIGHT IN MY *SOLAR PLEXUS!*

IT'LL BE A COUPLE OF MINUTES--BEFORE I CAN *GIVE CHASE*-- EVEN IF I'M NOT *ARRESTED!*

THAT OUGHT TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT I MEAN *BUSINESS!*

NOTHING-- AND *NOBODY* --WILL KEEP ME FROM DESTROY-ING THAT *LIBRARY!*

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THEN, AS MEKANO *REACHES* THE NEARBY STRUCTURE ...

EVEN IF THESE DOORS HAD BEEN *METAL* INSTEAD OF GLASS, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE KEPT ME OUT!

KRAAH

HA!

THIS LIBRARY WAS DUE TO BE *DEDICATED* TODAY ... THEN OPENED TO THE PRECIOUS *PUBLIC!*

WHEN *I'M* THROUGH WITH IT ... IT WILL *NEVER* BE OPENED ... *NEVER!!*

YET, ONLY A FEW STEPS BEHIND THE EMBITTERED YOUTH, A *NEW* ELEMENT IS COMING ONTO THE SCENE ...

I'M RIGHT *BEHIND* YOU, LEADER-MAN!

STILL, SHOULDN'T WE HELP *HANK* AND *BOBBY* BEFORE WE TACKLE THAT CREEP?

THEY'RE BOTH *ALL RIGHT!* WE'VE GOT TO STOP *MEKANO!*

BUT, CYCLOPS AND THE ANGEL ARE ALREADY *TOO LATE* TO STOP THEIR SUPER-POWERED PREY FROM FULFILLING AT LEAST *PART* OF HIS SELF-APPOINTED MISSION ...

SHAKESPEARE ... ZOLA--HEMINGWAY ... ALL THE OVERRATED PENCIL-PUSHERS OF *DAYS PAST* ...

DOWN WITH *ALL* OF THEM ... AND UP WITH *MEKANO!*

SLAM

M!

THIS IS THE TIME OF THE *MAN OF ACTION* ... THE WILL TO *POWER* ... NOT A TIME FOR USELESS *WORDS!*

HOLY HANNAH! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A FIRST-CLASS *BOOK-BURNER* ON OUR HANDS!

AND YET, I CAN'T HELP FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* THAT'S BOTHERING THAT GUY--*TORMENTING* HIM--!

WHAK

WHATEVER IT IS, I VOTE WE START KNOCKING IT *OUT* OF HIM ... WHILE THIS PLACE IS STILL *STANDING!*

BUT, JUST THEN ...

HOLD IT! YOU'RE COMING WITH *US!*

YOUR *BAREFOOT BUDDY* OUTSIDE ELUDED US ... BUT, WE'VE GOT *YOU TWO!* AND, THAT OVERGROWN VANDAL IN THERE IS *NEXT!*

UH OH! HOW DO WE GET OUT OF *THIS* ONE WITHOUT ANYBODY GETTING HURT?

THE FOLLOWING INSTANT...

OUR GUNS! THEY'RE FLYING STRAIGHT UP IN THE AIR!

IT MUST BE THE ONE CALLED MARVEL GIRL! BUT..I DIDN'T SEE HER AROUND HERE!

MAYBE NOT...BUT SHE'S HERE NOW! I...=ULLP!=

WE'RE FLOATING RIGHT OUT OF THE BUILDING...LIKE A COUPLE OF BALLOONS!

YOU'LL BE SAFER OUT THERE...WHILE THE X-MEN TACKLE THE ONE CALLED MEKANO!

AND, I'LL BET THAT WARREN NEVER AGAIN COMPLAINS BECAUSE I TAKE A FEW EXTRA SECONDS TO GET INTO COSTUME!

BUT, JUST AT THIS MOMENT, THE FAST-FLYING ANGEL HAS MORE URGENT THINGS ON HIS MIND...

STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, CHUM! I WANNA REMEMBER YOU THAT WAY!

SO...YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP MEKANO WITH NOTHING BUT A PAIR OF FANCY WINGS, HUH?

WAIT! DON'T ATTACK ALONE! HE'S POWERFUL.. DANGEROUS...

WELL, ONE RIGHT TO YOUR NOBLE JAW WILL PUT AN END TO THAT NOTION!

BOK!

=OOOFF!=

NOW, CYCLOPS...CLEAR OUT AND TAKE YOUR KAYOED PARTNER WITH YOU! THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT!

YOU MADE IT OUR FIGHT, PAL...WHEN YOU USED US AS DECOYS!

ZZZZAT!

THIS WARNING SHOT IS JUST A SAMPLE! SURRENDER, OR...

HOWEVER, EVEN BEFORE SCOTT SUMMERS CAN *FINISH*...

HE HURLED THAT ENTIRE *BOOKCASE* AT ME...AS EASILY AS I COULD TOSS A *PAPER PLANE!*

EASIER, CLOWN! AND, I'LL DO THE SAME TO *YOU*... IF YOU CROSS MY PATH *AGAIN!*

SO, TAKE MY ADVICE AND *GET LOST*... WHILE YOU STILL *CAN!*

'CAUSE, I'VE GOT *THINGS* TO DO... THINGS YOU WOULDN'T *UNDER-STAND!*

AND, THIS *GEAR* OF MINE GIVES ME THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING I WANT...*ANYTHING!!*

THOOM!

HEY...IT'S EVEN STRONGER THAN *I* THOUGHT! THE BANDS ATTACHED TO MY LEGS HAVE TURNED ME INTO A *HUMAN KANGAROO!*

BUT, IT'S STILL THE *STRENGTH* THAT I'M INTERESTED IN...THE STRENGTH TO DO... *THIS!*

RRIPP!

AH...THE LIBRARY'S *AUDIO-VISUAL* CENTER! JUST THE SECTION I WAS *LOOKING* FOR!

MEANWHILE, A FEW FLIGHTS OF STAIRS *BELOW*...

CYKE... ARE YOU *OKAY?* THAT GUY'S FIST HAS THE KICK OF A *MULE!*

THAT'S WHY I HAD *JEAN* WAIT OUTSIDE!

I'LL BE *FINE*... AS SOON AS I UNTANGLE MY-SELF FROM THIS VOLUME OF *PICASSO PRINTS!*

NOW I'M *READY*...NOT TO MENTION *IMPATIENT!* WE'VE GOT MORE *IMPORTANT* THINGS TO DO THAN WALTZ AROUND WITH *MEKANO!*

RIGHT...THINGS LIKE RAISING PLANE FARE TO *EUROPE*, FOR INSTANCE!

MEKANO'S OBVIOUSLY A *NEWCOMER* TO THE SUPER-VILLAIN SCENE! WE WON'T EVEN GET A *REWARD* IF WE FLATTEN HIM!

WHAT? YOU TWO CRUMBS AGAIN?

I CAN SEE YOU WON'T BE SATISFIED TILL I LOWER THE BOOM ON YOU!

MISTER, IF THERE'S ANY LOWERING TO BE DONE AROUND HERE, THE X-MEN'LL DO IT!

IN OTHER WORDS, THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF, PAL!

STOP, ANGEL! THAT'S AN ORDER! I WANT ONE LAST CHANCE TO REASON WITH HIM!

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, MEKANO? WHY THE URGE TO DEMOLISH A HARMLESS LIBRARY?

HARMLESS? HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT'S HARMLESS?

HERE, CYCLOPS! MAYBE THIS READING MACHINE WILL GIVE YOU SOME SMARTS!

CYKE... LOOK OUT! IT'S COMING STRAIGHT AT YOU!

IF ONLY I CAN GET MY VISOR OPEN IN TIME...!

YOU DID IT, PARTNER! YOU STOPPED IT IN MID-AIR!

BUT, I CAN'T LET THAT VALUABLE MACHINE BE DESTROYED... BY THE POWER OF MY OPTIC BLASTS!

MUST CLOSE MY VISOR SLOWLY... AND LOWER IT TO THE FLOOR!

AND, WHILE SCOTTY'S DOING THAT...

I WANT ANOTHER CRACK AT OUR TOME-TOSSING BUDDY... BEFORE I'M ROBBED OF THE CHANCE!

THERE! I MANAGED TO LOWER THE MACHINE WITHOUT HARMING IT!

UH OH! WARREN'S ZOOMING AT MEKANO AGAIN... AND IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP HIM!

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WHEN WILL YOU EVER *LEARN*, YOU FEATHERED FOOL, THAT I'M MUCH *FASTER* THAN YOU!

NUTS! ONE GOOD, SOLID PUNCH TO THE JAW MIGHT *FINISH* THIS CHARACTER!

BUT, THAT *EXO-SKELETON* ENABLES HIS ARMS TO MOVE LIKE *LIGHTNING!*

HE'S *GOT* ME!

OH NO! MEKANO'S USING WARREN AS A *SHIELD!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *ME*, CYKE! *BLAST AWAY*... BEFORE HE *ESCAPES!*

AN ADMIRABLE *GESTURE*, LAD!.. BUT SCARCELY THE X-MEN'S *MODUS OPERANDI!*

SO..THE *BEAST* IS HERE, TOO!

THEN, SUDDENLY...

HE'S HURLING THE ANGEL RIGHT *AT* US..!

LOOK OUT! =UNNHH!=

IF YOU *WANT* YOUR FELLOW FREAK SO BAD...YOU CAN *HAVE* HIM-- *HARD!*

NOT AS HARD AS YOU *THINK*, BUSTER!

YOU FORGOT..MY *WINGS* COULD SLOW ME DOWN, REDUCING THE *IMPACT!*

HE'S *RIGHT!* THEY WERE JUST *STUNNED*...NOT KNOCKED *UNCONSCIOUS*, AS I'D PLANNED!

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE..BUT TO *RUN!*

BESIDES, THE BEAST IS THE *STRONGEST* OF THE X-MEN! AND, THIS TIME, I WON'T CATCH HIM *OFF GUARD!*

NO NEED FOR *HASTE*, CINDERELLA! IT'S NOT YET NEAR THE *WITCHING HOUR!*

SORRY, BUT I DON'T WANNA TURN INTO A *PUMPKIN!*

WH..? HE LEAPED OUT THE *WINDOW*...LIKE A VERITABLE *GRASSHOPPER!*

I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO *TEST* THE LEG-POWER THIS GET-UP GIVES ME...

BUT, I'M SURE IT'LL CARRY ME ONTO THAT NEARBY *ROOFTOP!* IT'S *GOT* TO!

THAT SAME MOMENT, WHILE A TAUT FORM HURTLES THROUGH SPACE, A FATEFUL *NEWCOMER* ARRIVES ON THE SCENE...

SIR...*LOOK!* WHAT IN BLAZES IS *THAT*...OVER OUR *HEADS?*

IT'S A *MAN*... JUMPING FROM THE LIBRARY TOWARDS THAT NEARBY *BUILDING!*

BUT, WHO COULD HAVE SUCH INCREDIBLE *LEAPING POWER*.. AND *HOW?*

HE CALLS HIMSELF *MEKANO*..HE WAS OUT TO *WRECK* THE LIBRARY!

THEN, AS THE CROWD BELOW GAPES UP IN HELPLESS *ASTONISHMENT*...

KRAAK!

I *MADE* IT! BUT, I GRABBED THE LEDGE *TOO HARD!*

IT'S... *CRACKING!*

AND, BEFORE THE YOUTH CAN CLAMBER ONTO THE SAFETY OF THE *ROOFTOP*...

HELP! I..I'M *FALLING!!*

EVEN MY *EXO-SKELETON* WON'T BRACE ME FOR SUCH A FALL! I'LL BE *KILLED!!*

MEKANO'S *DOOMED*..UNLESS I CAN STOP HIS DESCENT *TELEKINETICALLY!*

BUT, HE'S WEARING THAT HEAVY METAL *FRAME*...AND HAS A TERRIFIC *MOMENTUM*..!

WH..? I'VE *STOPPED* FALLING!

AND YOU'RE STAYING RIGHT WHERE YOU *ARE*.. WHERE YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH IS *USE-LESS!*

IF ONLY I CAN *HOLD* HIM THERE! THE STRAIN ...IS ALMOST *UNBEARABLE!*

I GIVE UP, LADY! I'M ALL OUT OF *TRICKS!* JUST LET ME *DOWN!*

NOT..A *CHANCE,* MEKANO! NOT TILL THE OTHER *X-MEN*... GET HERE!

WE'RE *HERE,* MARVEL GIRL..AND *THANKS!*

YOU CAN LET HIM *DOWN* NOW..BUT *SLOWLY!*

HOWEVER, JUST AS A GREATLY SUBDUED *MEKANO* TOUCHES DOWN ...

OKAY, YOU HOODLUMS.. *HANDS UP!*

BACK AWAY, MISTER! THIS CREW IS *DANGEROUS!* THEY WERE TRYING TO DESTROY THE NEW *MEMORIAL LIBRARY..!*

WAIT, OFFICER! SINCE IT WAS *MY MONEY* THAT BUILT THIS PLACE, *I'VE* GOT A STAKE IN THIS!

EH? SORRY, MR. REGAL... I DIDN'T *RECOGNIZE* YOU!

MR. REGAL??

NOW, MEKANO... OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF... SUPPOSE YOU JUST *UNMASK*, AND...

JUST AS I *SUSPECTED*... WHEN I HEARD YOUR *VOICE!* IT'S *YOU*... MY OWN *SON!!*

YOUR SON?

YES, DAD... *I* WAS THE ONE THAT BROKE IN... NOT THE *X-MEN!*

BUT, WHY... *WHY??*

IT'S THE ONE WHO GAVE US A *LIFT!*

IT'S ALL SORT OF *MIXED UP* IN MY MIND NOW... AND I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE *DONE* IT...

BUT, I GUESS I WAS TIRED OF BEING TOM REGAL... THE *PHILANTHROPIST'S KID!*

EVER SINCE I CAN RECALL, IT SEEMED TO ME LIKE EVERYBODY IN *TOWN* GOT SOME OF YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE... EVERYBODY BUT YOUR OWN *SON!*

I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING -- *ANY-THING*... TO GET YOU TO *NOTICE* ME!

I -- I NEVER KNEW YOU *FELT* THAT WAY, TOM! I SUPPOSE.. I WAS *TOO BUSY..!*

SO, IT LOOKS LIKE *I'M* THE ONE WHO'S GUILTY HERE... NOT *YOU!*

THAT'S WHAT I *TOLD* MYSELF... WHEN I STOLE THIS GET-UP FROM THE UNIVERSITY *RESEARCH CENTER!*

BUT, I WAS *WRONG!* I WANTED YOU TO *NOTICE* ME... BUT NOT *THIS* WAY... NOT AS A *CRIMINAL!*

LOOKS LIKE THAT BRUSH WITH DEATH SHOCKED TOM TO HIS *SENSES!*

YET, I KNOW IT'S *TOO LATE* FOR A SIMPLE "*I'M SORRY*"!

I'M READY TO TAKE WHAT'S *COMING* TO ME... WHATEVER IT MAY BE...

I'M GLAD! BUT, THE LIBRARY'S STILL TECHNICALLY *MINE*, TILL THE DEDICATION...

AND, IF I PRESSED ANY CHARGES, THEY'D BE AGAINST *MYSELF!*

THEN, IF HE'LL TAKE BACK THAT *ZOOT-SUIT* HE'S WEARING -- WE'LL BE ON OUR *WAY!*

STILL... WHAT ABOUT THE *X-MEN?*

THE *X-MEN?*

SOMEHOW, I CAN SENSE THAT I OWE YOU YOUNGSTERS A *LOT*... INCLUDING TOM'S *LIFE!* IF YOU'D ACCEPT A *REWARD*...

NO *REWARDS*, MR. REGAL -- BUT IF YOU COULD *LOAN* US THE COST OF FIVE *PLANE TICKETS* TO *CENTRAL EUROPE*...

A STAGGERING TOTAL OF *$1500* OUGHT TO COVER IT, MR. R.!

DONE! ...AND IT'S NOT A *FRACTION* OF MY *DEBT* TO YOU!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

THANK YOU, SIR! WE'LL FIND A WAY TO *REPAY* YOU--SOMEHOW--!

WE'LL *TALK* ABOUT IT SOMETIME, CYCLOPS!

RIGHT NOW, TOM AND I HAVE TO HEAD *UPTOWN*... TO A CERTAIN *RESEARCH CENTER!*

HE'S GOT SOME *EXPLAINING* TO DO--EH, *SON?*

I SURE DO... *DAD!*

BUT, IT WON'T BE SO *HARD* --WITH *YOU* THERE!

NOW, WHILE YOUR SENTIMENTAL BULLPENNERS REACH FOR A DRY HANKY, LET'S SKIP *AHEAD* A BIT---TO A METROPOLITAN *AIRPORT*..

IT'S HARD TO *BELIEVE!* WE EVEN HAD ENOUGH MONEY LEFT OVER TO BAIL OUT THE *CAR!*

SOMETHING ACTUALLY WORKED OUT *RIGHT* FOR A CHANGE!

HOW COULD IT *MISS*...WITH THE INVINCIBLE *ICEMAN* HELPIN' YOU?

AS I RECALL, LAD, YOU WERE MORE LIKE A *CAPTIVE AUDIENCE!*

WELL, JUST WAIT'LL YOU SEE ME AGAINST *FACTOR THREE!*

THEY'RE TRYING TO ACT NONCHALANT--- EVEN *CHEERFUL*--- ABOUT *OUR COMING BATTLE!*

YET, I KNOW THEY'RE TRULY JUST AS WORRIED AS *I* AM!

AND, WELL *MIGHT* EVEN THE UNCANNY X-MEN WORRY ABOUT WHAT IS DESTINED TO BE THEIR *MOST DESPERATE ENCOUNTER!* FOR, BEFORE A TELESCREEN INSIDE A HOLLOW MOUNTAIN IN *CENTRAL EUROPE*...

THE *FOOLS!* DO THEY REALLY BELIEVE THAT, MERELY BY CHANGING BACK TO THEIR *STUDENT* SELVES, THEY CAN ESCAPE THE WATCHFUL EYE OF *FACTOR THREE?*

DO THEY NOT REALIZE THAT THEIR EVERY *ACTION* IS BEING CAREFULLY MONITORED--- CLOSELY *SCRUTINIZED?*

A PITY THAT THEY DO NOT SUSPECT THAT THEY SHALL NEVER *REACH* OUR STRONGHOLD-- *ALIVE!!*

NEXT ISH: **DISASTER!**